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24 APR 2006

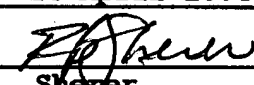
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEPCT GROUP

In re the Application of:) Title: Method And Apparatus
Laurence J. Ayling) For Adding A Tubular To
) Drill String With Diverter
International Application No.:)
PCT/GB2004/003501) Art Unit: Unknown
)
International Filing Date:) Examiner: Unknown
16 August 2004)
) Attorney Docket: 593-PCT-US
)
)

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

) I hereby certify that this
) correspondence is being deposited
) with the United States Postal Service
) as first class mail in an envelope
) addressed to: Commissioner for
) Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria VA
) 22313 on

) 24 April 2006
)
)


R.B. Shaver

24 April 2006

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified International (PCT)
Application, which is filed herewith, as follows:

In order to reduce the filing fee, and also improve the
form of the claims and thereby expedite the prosecution,
please cancel Claims 1 - 55 and substitute new Claims 56 - 72
as follows:

LIST OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 55 (Cancelled)

Claims 56 - 72 (New)